

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Holly Carroll, Area Management Biologist
Sabrina Garcia, Asst. Area Management Biologist
Lower Yukon Area Office
P.O. Box 127
Emmonak, AK 99581
Phone: (907) 949-1320
Fax: (907) 949-1830

U.S. Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Subsistence Board
Karen P. Clark, Acting Regional Director
Gene Peltola, Asst. Regional Director Subsistence
Fred Bue, Yukon Area Inseason Manager
Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office
101 12th Avenue, Rm 110
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: (907) 455-1849 or 1-800-267-3997
Fax (907) 455-1853

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2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 36

Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C Subsistence Fishing Schedules

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

As of June 23, the sonar project near Pilot Station has estimated a cumulative passage of approximately 109,000 Chinook salmon. This cumulative passage estimate is well above average for this date, but below average for years with early run timing. However, all indications are that we are likely within our pre-season projection range of 130,000–175,000 Chinook salmon based on early run timing. The cumulative passage of summer chum salmon is approximately 868,000 fish. These estimates are well above average for this date and indicate we are likely within our pre-season projection range of 1.3 to 1.8 million summer chum salmon based on early run timing.

The first large pulse of summer chum salmon and the third pulse of Chinook salmon should reach Subdistrict 5-A around July 4. Consistent with management strategies discussed at the pre-season meeting, it is warranted to provide subsistence harvest opportunity for Chinook and summer chum salmon on a reduced regulatory schedule with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets as the first and second pulses of Chinook salmon have migrated past these subdistricts. This gear restriction is meant to provide opportunity to harvest salmon while minimizing the harvest of larger, older Chinook salmon.

In Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C the dip net, beach seine, and live-release fish wheel subsistence fishery will close, and subsistence fishing will reopen on a reduced regulatory fishing schedule consisting of two 24-hour periods per week with gear restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels. Chinook salmon caught during these periods may be retained for

subsistence use. Subsistence salmon fishing is closed between the 24-hour periods.

Management Actions

Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C (from the western edge of the mouth of Illinois Creek upstream to the ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately two miles downstream of Waldron Creek, including the communities of Tanana and Rampart as well as the area near the Yukon River bridge):

Currently, subsistence summer chum salmon fishing is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with selective gear including dip nets, beach seines, and live-release fish wheels only. Any Chinook salmon caught in these gear types must be immediately released to the water alive. The selective gear fishing season is closed effective 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 5.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 5, subsistence salmon fishing will be open for two 24-hour periods per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets (set net only) and fish wheels until further notice on the following schedule:

- 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays until 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays
- 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 6:00 p.m. Saturdays

All salmon caught in set gillnets and fish wheels may be retained for subsistence use.

Fishermen may use 4-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets of 60 feet or shorter length to target non-salmon species during subsistence salmon fishing closures.

A fishing permit is required to fish for all species in the portion of Subdistrict 5-C from the western most tip of Garnet Island upstream to the mouth of Dall River in the lower portion of Subdistrict 5-D.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at **(866) 479-7387** (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call **(907) 459-7387**.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADF&G office in Fairbanks at (907) 459-7274 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Emmonak at (907) 949-1798.

This is an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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